Notable is a semiannual publication of the College of Fine Arts and Communication. It celebrates faculty and student research and creative activity on the state, national and international levels. Activity since April 2009.

Voors serves National Park Service

Last summer, Michael Voors held a highly-coveted Artist-in-Residency post at Mesa Verde, the first national park of its kind in the United States.

Voors was one of four artists selected in a national search. He traveled to southwestern Colorado and met with park rangers for an intensive backcountry training program. Following initiation and orientation, he was given free access to the UNESCO World Heritage site for a two-week period.

“It takes a few days to adjust to the site,” Voors said. Each day, the professor awoke at 6:00 a.m., entering the park as early as possible. “There’s a ‘getting acquainted’ phase,” Voors explains, in which he used notebooks to capture drawings that connected him with the site. “Drawing is an important tool for investigation and the most direct way to respond. Once you find a motif, it’s then possible to focus in a more sustained effort on larger sheets of paper. Media is kept very simple—mostly watercolor, graphite, and pastel.”

“Working on location is an exciting challenge—most of the sites were reached by narrow trails down steep canyon walls. Materials had to all be packed in.”

“My hope is to go beyond the documentation of place. I am interested in visual phenomena which moves toward larger meanings and associations— a kind of poetry of information.” —continued

Notable

As an Artist in Residence, Kelly L. Adams (Painting and Drawing), documented the topography, archeological ruins, and cultural monuments of the Petrified Forest and Mesa Verde national parks. Works resulting from her immersion in the backcountry desert will be included in each park’s permanent collection. A

Last June, Joanne Bath coordinated an international exchange concert with Suzuki violinists in Borlange, Sweden. The musicians concertized with Greenville Suzuki Association members. Bath conducted workshops and training sessions at the Oregon Suzuki Institute in June; at the Community Music School in Bollnas, Sweden, in October; and at the Charlotte Community School for the Arts in November. She served as artistic director of the 26th North Carolina Suzuki Institute last July. M

Last summer, George Broussard performed in Charleston’s Spoleto Festival with the Palmetto Posse project trombone choir; was soloist at American Trombone Choir tour performances in Bad Neuenhr, Germany and Prague, Czech Republic; performed with the Cramer Memorial Trombone Choir; and performed a North Carolina Jazz Repertory Orchestra concert in Chapel Hill. His review of the International Trombone Festival held in Aarhus, Denmark, appeared in the fall issue of the Journal of the International Trombone Association. M

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Voors, from page 1...

These drawings, coupled with a plethora of photographs, formed the basis of Voors’ research and fieldwork, from which richer pieces could then be drawn at a later time. “Back in the studio environment I can increase scale, adjust shapes, and alter surfaces allowing both memory and imagination to come into greater play.”

Mesa Verde National Park includes 4,300 archeological sites and 600 cliff dwellings, the most famous of which is Cliff Palace. Ancestral puebloans have been in the area for 10,000 years, but began an exodus around 1,300 AD, probably as a result of gradual drought and crop failure.

The site was rediscovered in 1765 by Don Juan Maria de Rivera, exploring under orders from the New Mexico governor. In subsequent years, the effects of tourism and artifact removal prompted an 1886 editorial in the Denver Tribune Republican to call for federal or state protection against “vandals of modern civilization.”

The park has a dramatic level of natural beauty—at over a 7,000 foot elevation the mesas and cliffs are a complex environment,” Voors says, “but the uniqueness is the cultural heritage.” Voors says that theft of archaeological artifacts remains a contemporary issue. “I didn’t want to leave an imprint or damage any of the site by accident. I was very conscious of the fact that these sites were the ritual centers of Native Americans and needed to be approached with a great deal of respect. When I’d see pottery sherds or artifacts lying on the ground, you leave them there out of respect—and the law.”

“It’s important for students to realize that as teachers, we’re also visual artists working in the field or studio,” Voors says. He has worked at excavation sites in Pompeii, Jerusalem, the caves of Qumran in Israel and at a site in Cologne, Germany. He’s also been inspired by travels to the Roman ruins, Neolithic monuments in Wales, Ireland, Great Britain and Carnac in Northwest France.

“I see the work as a tool for participating in a larger mystery,” he says. “I’ve always had an interest in sites that have a sacred or historical character. I hope I can set a good example when students are trying to find direction. I can share what my experience has been and how one tries to take one’s experience and give it new life in the form of drawing and painting.”

As a requirement of the residency, Voors offered a public lecture, “Ancient and Sacred Places: A personal journey.” The talk included slides of Neolithic Ireland and Wales, as well as ancient Rome. Within the year, Voors will gift a work of art to the permanent collection of the national park, adding his interpretation of the site to the legacy of artists that served before him.

“To me the most transcendent moments are when everyone has left the park and the light is fading and you’re in that silence,” Voors says. “That’s the magical hour.”

Michael Voors holds a BFA from Indiana University and an MFA from Eastern Michigan University. His works are held in collections including the Library of Congress, the Fogg Museum at Harvard University, the Diozesanmuseum in Cologne, Germany; the Grafisk Vaerksted in Naestved, Denmark; and the Georgetown University Art Museum in Washington, D.C. He almost always carries a notebook...
Amy Carr-Richardson (music theory) presented “Handel’s Messiah as Source and Model for Beethoven’s Missa solemnis” at the American Handel Festival in February and “Musical Borrowing in Beethoven’s Late String Quartets” at the American Beethoven Society biennial convention in July. *M*

Michael Cavanagh published “Until The People Spoke: The California Supreme Court’s Response to Same-Sex ‘Marriage’” in the Communication Law Review. *C*

Michael Crane won a $3,000 Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge Grassroots grant in support of a performance of the Imani Winds, which will appear as a part of the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series and the New-Music@ECU Festival on February 25. Crane was also one of 11 presenters to win a three-year Southern Arts Federation Dance Touring Initiative award, valued at $22,875. The grant offsets the cost of presenting contemporary dance, while providing expertise in audience development for the art form. *CFAC*

Linda Darty received the best in show award for a work entitled “Surfacing” at the International Juried Exhibition of Enamels in San Francisco. At the International Enamelist Conference, she served as keynote speaker. *A*

Carroll V. Dashiell Jr. was invited by Howard University to present the newly-established “Lifetime Achievement Award” to Dr. Billy Taylor at a celebration in the legend’s honor. *M*

Michael Dorsey’s solo exhibition, “The Historic Hairdressers,” is at the Fayetteville Museum of Art in Fayetteville through January 10. *A*

Bob Ebendorf’s work, “New Life” a copper, acrylic and silver brooch, was purchased by the Museum of Art and Design in New York. He presented “Jewelry of the 21st Century” at the same institution in September. In October, he presented “Good as Gold: Lost and Found” at “The Art of Adornment: The American Jewelry Tradition from the Seventeenth Century to the Present” symposium at Yale University. Yale purchased two Ebendorf brooches executed in 2009 for their permanent collection. *A*

Cindy Elmore’s “Turning Points and Turnover among Female Journalists: Communicating Resistance and Repression” was published in the spring issue of Women’s Studies in Communication. The communication professor traveled to Singapore in June on an Asian Studies Travel Grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education. *C*

Elliot Frank performed and taught for the Charlotte Guitar Society in April. He performed recitals and taught master classes at the Classical Minds Guitar Institute at the University of Houston in June, the Fort Worth Guitar Guild Summer Festival in July, and at Illinois State University, Oberlin Conservatory and the Cleveland Institute of Music in October. Frank performed at and directed the ECU Summer Guitar Festival in July. *M*

Cinematographer Erick Yates Green’s work, “As Maltratadas,” screened at the São Paulo International Film Festival in October and at the Montreal World Film Festival in September. Green held a cinematography workshop for the Southern Documentary Fund in November. *C*

Photographer Annie Hogan’s work is on exhibition in Australia at “Synchronicity” in the Toowoomba Regional Gallery in Queensland and “Disappearers” in Gippsland Art Gallery in Victoria. Hogan had a solo exhibition at ArtSpace in Richmond. *A*

What do you do when you fall in love with a foreign town? For Michael Tahaney, you share it with students.

Tahaney, assistant professor and BFA coordinator for musical theatre, led a group of seven School of Theatre and Dance students to San Miguel de Allende, an UNESCO World Heritage site located in the highlands of central Mexico. Together, they immersed themselves in the history of the Mexican nation, creating a 60-minute theatrical interpretation that reflected 3,000 years of converging cultures. They mounted the original production before a sold-out crowd of nearly 200 at the Rancho Los Labradores theatre.

Titled “FUSION,” the performance was an impressionistic perspective of Mexican history, ritual and tradition told through music, dance, narration and physical theatre techniques.

Tahaney’s itinerary began in Mexico City, where he and his students first reviewed European-influenced architecture and the history of the capitol. “We dug into the multi-tribal history of central Mexico and toured the ruins at Teotihuacán,” Tahaney said. Teotihuacán was the religious center of Mesoamerica. Its skyline dominated by two enormous pyramids—the Aztecs called the Pyramid of the Sun and the Pyramid of the Moon, both still stand today. Gazing upon these majestic sights “The students slowly started to grasp the mysticism and mythology of the region.”

After further research, the group collaboratively wrote a show that married dance, indigenous instrument performance, storytelling and choreography. “We called the work a contemporary outsider’s perspective,” Tahaney said. Students were challenged to support the project in academic areas often unfamiliar to them.

“I was very impressed with the work—the music, the choreography, the costumes. It took the training the students get in class on campus and put it into a practical application.”

Student participants (Kate Blain, Tyler Griffin, Daniela Hart, Ian Meeks, Christopher Minor, Anna Stainback and Ashley Willis-Webb) represented concentrations in dance education, costume design, musical theatre, acting and theatre education.

Tahaney explains that under his tutelage the students were not destined for a tourist package sort of experience, but rather were placed as temporary residents in the culture of San Miguel. “They lived in the town, shopped for food and essentials, and did their own laundry,” he said. “It’s empowering for young people to learn that they can function in a completely foreign environment.”

The experience wasn’t without challenges. The group’s Spanish vocabulary often fell short when seeking select props and shopping for costuming, but Tahaney reports that the challenges of mounting the production under a tight deadline—with an entire, curious community watching the process—was a part of the adventure, and infinitely rewarding.

“San Miguel is a place where people really live life, where extremes collide, where cultural arts are steeped into the life of everyone,” Tahaney said. “I knew the students would feed on that and fall in love with it, and they did. This was not a passive experience for these students. They owned it.”

Tahaney also directed an experimental version of the musical “The Last Five Years” as a second performance project. The work is distinctly American and modern. It offered Broadway style-theatre to San Miguel audiences, many who are American, Canadian or European. The hour-long, one-act, two-character musical was highly challenging for singers Christopher Minor and Kate Blain. Tyler Griffin served as accompanist. With Tahaney, these three students stayed in Mexico for an additional 14 days to stage the production.
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Two of coauthored “Australian moderated,” the national magazine presented “Sustainable Design.” LaMere’s collateral material design for local graphic design client Carolina Classics Catfish has been published in The Big Book of Green Design (Crescent Hill Books). LaMere’s collateral material design for local client Nease Personnel was juried into Graphic Design USAs American Graphic Design Awards, and published in the November issue. Of the 8,000+ entries, only 15 percent were juried into this national show.

Audrey Mott Kilgore received second prize in the “Brooklyn Internationale Juried Exhibition” at the Museum of Computer Art in Brooklyn. In August, she won a Solo Exhibition Award at the online Caladan Gallery for her works presented in the juried international exhibition “Nature.”

Nanyoung Kim published three articles in Arts and Activities, the national magazine serving K-12 arts teachers: “Beadmaking with sophistication” (May), “Underwater composition” (June) and “Name Design” (September).

Kris Kirschbaum presented “Collaborating with Physicians: Conquering the Divide to Deliver Communication Training” at the Eastern Communication Association convention in Philadelphia in April. In June, she presented “Invitational Rhetoric as a Tool for Surgeon/Anesthesiologist Communication” at the Society for Education in Anesthesia Annual Meeting in Seattle. At the National Communication Association’s November meeting, she served as a panelist and presented “Engaging with Interactive Technology: The Advantages and Challenges of Using Student Response Systems.”

Kate LaMere presented “Sustainable from the Go” at the Foundations in Art: Theory and Education (FATE) Biennial conference in Portland in April. LaMere’s book “Apparatus of Daydreaming” received a bronze award for fine arts and was published in the journal Creative Quarterly 15. Two of her artists’ books were juried into the Southeast Association for Book Arts exhibition “Intimate Curiosities,” which ran last May in Columbia, SC, then traveled to the Upstairs Art Gallery in Tryon, NC. Her identity system and sustainable packaging for local graphic design client Carolina Classics Catfish has been published in The Big Book of Green Design (Crescent Hill Books). LaMere’s collateral material design for local client Nease Personnel was juried into Graphic Design USAs American Graphic Design Awards, and published in the November issue. Of the 8,000+ entries, only 15 percent were juried into this national show.

Punam Madhok presented “Christian-Islamic Relations in the Court Art of Mughal India” at the Fourth International Conference on the Arts in Society in Venice in July. The art historian has been chosen to review papers for the International Journal of the Arts in Society, and will be credited as associate editor in the upcoming issue.

Craig Malmrose offered a juried presentation, “The New Life of Wood Type,” at the Society of Typographic Aficionados in Atlanta in July. The talk explained the design and production of one of the first new wooden typefaces created in the last 40 years. The face was designed by Gunnar Swanson. The duo presented related findings and creative activities at the TypeCon conference.

Malmrose presented a paper on design history at the Society for Utopian Studies conference in October. The presentation, entitled “Modernism: A Lingering Legacy of Contradictions,” dealt with the vision and ultimate failures of the Modernists during the 19th and 20th centuries. At the same conference, Malmrose, Swanson and panel moderator Jelena Bogdanovic moderated proceedings concerning utopianism in Modernist design.

Brian Massey coauthored “Australian journalists and commitment to organizational change: A longitudinal student.” The article appeared in the August issue of Media International Australia.


Jocelyn Nelson’s performance in Boston was favorably reviewed in Early Music America and Lute Society of America Quarterly. Nelson published an interview with lutenist Paul O’Dette in the summer issue of Lute Society of America Quarterly.

Deb Pylypiw presented “Are you TECH-savvy?” at the North Carolina Art Educator Association conference in Winston-Salem.

Robert Quinn’s “Post-secondary art appreciation: Going online” was published in the Arts and Learning Research Journal. In April, he presented “Vodcasting: What is it, and how can it be used in art education?” at the National Art Education Association Convention in Minneapolis, and “Challenging Traditional Conceptions of Introductory Visual Arts Courses” at the Foundations in Art: Theory and Education Biennial Conference in Portland. Quinn, Wayne Godwin and Carl Twarog presented “Gaming for Classroom Crisis Preparedness” at the North Carolina Art Education Association Professional Development Conference in October in Winston-Salem.

Jelena Bogdanovic

Morin received top paper recognition at the National Communication Association in Chicago for “Towards a critical theory of Muslim feminism.”

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The Enso String Quartet, for whom Melissa Reardon is violist, received a Grammy nod for Best Chamber Music Performance for a recording of the complete string quartets of Ginastera.

Dindy Reich won $3,000 from Target and $1,000 from the North Carolina Arts Council Grassroots program in support of the Youth Arts Festival.

“Migration,” a book by Lisa Beth Robinson, was purchased by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Robinson serves on the national board of the College Book Arts Association. Her work recently appeared in a solo exhibition “Sidereal” at the Rocky Mount Arts Center and in invitation exhibitions including “Racism: An American Family Value” at the Center for the Book Arts in New York, “Somewhere Far From Habit” at Longwood University in Farmville, VA, and “The Assignment, A Juried Exhibition of Book Arts,” in conjunction with the meeting of the College Book Art Association at 23 Sandy Gallery in Portland. At the same venue, her work appeared in “Broadsided! The intersection of Art and Literature.” Other juried exhibitions included the “32nd Bradley International Print and Drawing Exhibition” at Bradley University in Peoria and “Pressing South: an Exhibition of Letterpress Printing from the Southeastern United States” at UNC-Wilmington. She presented “Alternative Book Binding Techniques” at Print Dialogue Day held at the University of West Georgia in Carrolton.

In June, John Shearin produced and directed “Big River,” a musical based on Mark Twain’s The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, for the ECU/Loessin Summer Theatre. The production featured the design and production work of several faculty members, including Bob Alpers (scenic designer), Jeffery Phipps (costume designer, assisted by Delta Childers, staff costume shop supervisor), Reid Parker (technical director), and Jeni Parker (assistant scenic designer). Tommi Galaska (jazz dance) was choreographer. Dayton Vesper was accompanist and Jonathan Sitton was music director. Scott Carter (Instrumental Department chair) was orchestra director and conductor. Joining several guest artists were faculty Greg Funaro as “the Duke,” Natalie Stewart as “Miss
Watson,” and John Carlson as “Sheriff Bell.” The role of Huck was played by junior musical theatre student, Von Lewis, who was joined by several other School of Theatre and Dance students in major and supporting roles. Last April, Shearin produced and directed “All’s Well That Ends Well” by William Shakespeare for the ECU/Loessin Playhouse. The principal feature of the scenic design was an irregularly-shaped revolving, multi-faceted two-story unit envisioned by Robert Alpers and constructed under the supervision of Reid Parker, faculty technical director. Steve Crick was lighting designer. 

Michael Tahaney was tapped to create and function as coordinating director for a special musical revue entitled “A Toast to Broadway: the Roanoke Island Revue” performed by a cast of 20 ECU Theatre and Dance students at the Roanoke Island Festival Park on October 24 in Manteo. 

Jim Tisnado’s work was exhibited in “Flora: Growing Inspirations” from May through October in the United States Botanical Gardens in Washington, D.C. 


Tami Tomasello’s chapter, “J.C.R. Licklider and the Rise of Interactive and Networked Computing” was published in Handbook of Research on Social Interaction Technologies and Collaboration Software: Concepts and Trends in July. As a result of the publication, Tomasello accepted an invitation to serve as an associate editor for the International Journal of Interactive Communication Systems and Technologies. The inaugural issue is scheduled to print in January. 

Michael Voors participated in an exhibition titled “Exchange VI” at the University of Regina in Saskatchewan during October and November. 

Catherine Walker has over 100 paintings and mixed media works in solo exhibition at the Kinston Community Arts Council’s Hampton Gallery. Faculty from the music education department presented at a number of conferences. Jeff Ward and Linda High presented “Theory into practice: Teaching assessment strategies to pre-service teachers through a third through fifth grade vocal music laboratory” at the 2nd International Symposium on Assessment in Music Education at the University of Florida in April. Ward, High, Jay Juchniewicz and Greg Hurley presented “Fulfilling the Goals of Graduate Distance Education through Centra” at the North Carolina Distance Learning Annual Conference in May. Ward and Juchniewicz presented “Secondary Music Specialist Degree: A Preliminary Curricular Model” at the national Symposium for Music Teacher Education at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro in September. At the same conference, Michelle Hairston co-presented “Influences on Career choice Among Music Education Audition Candidates: A Pilot Study.” Also that month, Ward, High and Hurley presented “Applying Theory to Practice: Using After School Children’s Music Programs to Prepare Future Music Teachers” at the North Carolina Teacher Education Forum in Raleigh. 

Emma Wertz and a coauthor presented “Expectation gaps between stakeholders and web-based corporate public relations efforts: Focusing on Fortune 500 corporate web sites” at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference held in Boston in August. Ken Wyatt screened the first cut of his documentary, “Pray for Eric” at the New Orleans 2009 University Film and Video Association Conference. He was awarded the Southern Documentary Fund’s fiscal sponsorship for the work, supporting post-production and distribution expenses.

Student News

At the Raleigh Area Flute Association Competition, performance and music education undergraduate candidate Rachael Arnold and master’s of music candidate Nicole Frazee won their respective divisions. Both students received a cash prize and performed at the winner’s recital in November.

Master's of music candidate Brandi Digs received third place and Allison Jones (MM ’08) took first place at the Music Teachers National Association Young Artist Competition this fall in Greensboro.
Kristin Hunter produced “Locker Room Lookout,” a 30-minute program aired on ECU-TV that highlights underrepresented sports on campus.

Student composer Steve Lewis’ composition “A Just War” has been published and is available for sale at www.periferiamusic.com.

Music education senior Jason Morton received the Bill McCloud and the Ruth Jewell scholarships at the North Carolina Music Educators Association state conference.

When wood design MFA candidate Jon Travis Snyder received a 2008-2009 Craft Research Fund Grant from the Center for Craft, Creativity and Design, he used the $10,000 award to explore the American hand-built guitar tradition. The artist chronicled its evolution from a 1960s cultural anachronism to a present day fully cultivated American craft, widely hailed as the ‘golden age’ of guitar building. Snyder presented his findings in a thesis exhibition currently showing at the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge.

Kyle Walker, a communication and piano performance double-major, is the State Winner of the Young Artist Piano Competition held in October at the State Conference of the North Carolina Music Teachers Association. His program included works by Bach, Beethoven and Albeniz. Walker holds the Olive G. Long Memorial Piano Scholarship, serves as station manager at ECU’s Channel 31 TV, performs gospel music and is a former winner of the ECU Piano Competition for pre-college students. He advances to regional competition, to be held in Birmingham in January.

Undergraduate Nathan Walker’s composition “Leaves” was performed by the NC Master Chorale Chamber Choir, directed by Al Sturgis, as a part of a concert entitled “Time Passages.” The work was presented last March in Kenan Recital Hall at Peace College.

Senior flute performance major Jamie Wilken was accepted with a full scholarship to the Christian Lardé master class in Paris for two weeks in July 2009. She traveled between Paris and Brazil, where she and duo partner, guitarist Josinaldo Costa performed in three chamber music festivals: Virtuosi na Serra in Pernambuco; the Villa-Lobos Hall in Rio de Janeiro under the aegis of the Guitar Society of Rio de Janeiro; and the Londrina Chamber Music Competition in Londrina, Brazil.

The ECU North Carolina Music Education Association chapter received the Chapter of Excellence Award at the 2009 North Carolina Music Educators Association State Conference.

Alumni News

John Bacon (BS ’02) was promoted to vice president and market executive for First Carolina State Bank’s newest full-service office in Greenville. Bacon formerly served the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce. He serves on the boards of the Greenville Museum of Art and the United Way of Pitt County.

Irene Bailey (BFA ’93, MFA ’95) had a portrait of her late Uncle Joe, a NYC fireman, juried into the American Artist Professional League “81st Grand National Exhibition” at the Salmagundi Club on Fifth Avenue in New York.

Howell Binkley, who won the Tony award for lighting design of “Jersey Boys,” has been nominated for four Henry Hewes Design Awards. The productions are “Cry-Baby,” “Gypsy,” “The Farnsworth Invention” and “Xanadu.”

In other news, Binkley is offering a semester-long internship for ECU lighting design students. Selected students will work with Binkley’s lighting company on projects on Broadway and in some of the finest professional regional theatres in the nation. Intimately involved in the day-to-day operations of the company, the student will have access to the developmental processes of the designer himself.

Kay Sloppy Crouch (BM ’77) is serving her 25th year as director of the music program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. She recently received both the CCCTI Great Teacher Award and the EM Dudley Award for service to college and community, marking the first time a faculty member has received both awards in the same year. She is the coordinator of the North Carolina Great Teachers Retreat, an event held annually for community college teachers of all fields. With husband Patrick, she performs in an acoustic trio, Strictly Clean and Decent. The group is completing a ten-year project that has, to date, recorded 98 traditional Caldwell County musicians on nine CDs. Strictly Clean and Decent recently performed in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and is planning its ninth tour of Ireland in July.

The GAP selected t-shirt designs by Len Davis for their RED Artist Edition limited series products. The work will be available internationally beginning in March.

Lora Davis (MAEd ’08) is teaching Art Appreciation at Wilkes Community College.

Corinne Greterler (BA ’09) is an intern with the Associated Press in Rome.

Robin Griswold (BA ’05, BFA ’06, MAEd ’09) won first place in Sculptural Cla-
yArt Awards in the 2009 NC Clay Art Awards of Excellence sponsored by the Arts Council of Carteret County and Carolina Artist Studio Gallery.

Christina Harrell Groman (BFA '07) receives ongoing commissions from Old Dominion University to paint cornhole boards for their sports and cultural programs including one for a Lynyrd Skynyrd concert 2009 at ODU.

Chris Hill (BFA '03) booked six national commercials this year, including work for Subaru and Microsoft Bing.

Alex Knox (BFA '07) and Mike Hill (BFA '07) built a new furnace, assisted with mold preparation and ran an iron pour for the Oklahoma University School of Art, where they are pursuing MFA degrees. The event marks the third time that ECU School of Art and Design alumni have run an iron pour at this institution. Joining the events were BFA candidate Aaron Earley, Tripp Jarvis (MFA '06) and Garrett Stowe (BFA '08).

Retoucher Allison Hughes Kuglitsch (BFA '01) was born and raised a Southern gal from Siler City. After graduating from ECU, she worked as a digital imaging artist for a commercial photographer and for McKinney + Silver in Durham, where she worked extensively on accounts such as Audi of America, Sony, Travelocity and NASDAQ. She then moved to Austin to work for GSD&M, with accounts including BMW, Kohler, AT&T, Chili’s, Wal-Mart, Southwest and others.

Jeremy Jones (MM '07) received the top graduate DMA assistantship offered by the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. He has served as the conductor of the CCM Men’s Glee Club for the last three years. In March 2008, Jones presented at a seminar on the history of collegiate male glee clubs at the International Men’s Choruses’ National Seminar in Vienna, VA. His paper, “A Brief Historical Overview of the European Tradition of Male Singing Societies and Their Influence on the Development of Collegiate Glee Clubs in America,” was published in two parts in the April 2008 and October 2008 issues of Choral Journal. This paper is an outgrowth of the MM Orals project that he presented at ECU prior to his graduation.

Niki Litts (BFA '02) is serving as program coordinator for the Cultural Center in Holly Springs.

Andrea Naglieri Lupton (BA '09) interned at the Smithsonian Textiles Museum. She now works in the Public Education Department of the National Portrait Gallery.

Anthony Maglione (MM '07) is pursuing a DMA in Conducting at UCLA. Several of his choral compositions have been published by GIA publications, and have been performed on Robert Schuler’s “Hour of Power” by the chorus of the Crystal Cathedral, as well as by the UCLA choirs. Last spring, the ECU Chamber Singers premiered his piece, “O Thou Great Power, in Whom I Move.” The work will appear on choir’s upcoming CD.

Dietrich Maune (BFA '09, MFA '94) is leading the development of a new college of Communication, Information and Media at James Madison University. He married Audrey (Jefferson) Maune (BFA '04). Together they have a budding artist, Gretchen, age 6.

Michael Meadors (BA '07) reports that the New York Academy of Art selected him to attend the Leipzig International Artists Program last summer, where he worked and exhibited.

Crystal Peebles (BM '05) presented “Opposition and Metamorphosis: Timbre in Saariaho’s Château de l’âme” at the Society for Music Theory national conference.

Last July, Aaron Pratt (BFA '08) performed a leading role in the Kennedy Theatre’s “Hot Summer Nights” series production of “I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change.” The production ran for two weeks in Raleigh.

Rita Rathbone (MAEd '09) held a six-week solo exhibition of digital collages entitled “Evidence of Things Not Seen, West Point of the Eno City Park,” at the Hugh Mangum Museum of Photography in Durham.

Brandon Ruckdashel (BFA '04) has been living both in Hollywood and New York over the last two years. He returned from Bucharest where he filmed a two-episode recurring role for “Life On Top,” a new series on HBO/Cinemax. During the summer he performed a featured role in a benefit concert of “Jekyll & Hyde,” and appeared in another benefit, “Meows,” on Broadway and in support of the New York Humane Society. Ruckdashel was onstage in a two-week run of a world-premiere English verse production of Alexander Pushkin’s “Little Tragedies” at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in New York. The work is a collection of four short humorous-yet-lyrical plays about human nature’s inherent contradictions.

Holly Ann Sailors (BFA '09) was awarded an NC Arts Council Community Arts Administration Internship grant. She is in service with the Dare County Arts Council in Manteo.

Nadiah Sarsour (BS '09) is working as a correspondent with Al-Watan, a news agency in Ramallah, the Palestinian territories, covering the Palestinian-Israeli
conflict. She conducts interviews with local and international prominent figures and translates them into English, Arabic and French.

Mike Silverman (BM ’00) was awarded the 2009 Arthur Flagler Fultz Research Grant from the American Music Therapy Association. The $15,000 award will fund his research project, “The effect of family-based educational music therapy on depression, satisfaction with life, and service utilization: A randomized effectiveness study with three month follow-up.” Silverman is Director of Music Therapy at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Josh Smith (BFA ’09) wrote and performed an entertaining music video celebrating the Thanksgiving season. He is joined by Courtney Christison (BFA ’09) and Lauren Pearce (BFA ’09). Entertain yourself at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZyLEq_kOIY.

Shane Smith (BA ’99) had two pieces of illustration/design work juried into and published in Print magazine’s “2009 Print Regional Design Annual.” Smith runs a studio, Karma Laundry, in the Raleigh-Durham area.

Destry Spark (BA ’90) and Joshua Parker Coombs (MFA ’09) have work in exhibition at Labour Love Gallery in Durham.

Janet K. Stocks (BA ’07) is serving as one of two interns for MTV Networks Corporate Responsibility and Public Affairs department. She is redesigning the departmental website, creating volunteer opportunities for MTV staff in the NYC community, and promoting MTV Networks social outreach initiatives. “I’m really excited about this opportunity because through it, I will be able to promote awareness of social issues through the use of a global brand,” she reports. “One of the initiatives that we’ll be working on is the “Get Skooled” campaign, funded by Bill and Melinda Gates, that promotes the importance of a high school education, and encourages students to further their education in college.”

The Museum of Art and Design in New York purchased a brooch made of tin, silver and diamond crafted by Marlene True (MFA ’08). True is currently artist in residence at the Pocosin Art Center in Columbia. She has work on exhibition at the Quirk Gallery in Richmond and at the Society of Contemporary Crafts Gallery in Boston.

Trevor Van Meter’s (BA ’99) crappycat.com website was juried into Communication Arts magazine’s Interactive Annual #15 in the entertainment category. The website is a means of promoting the vinyl toy and developing a fan base for the character called Crappy Cat. The site is described as “interactive cinema that blurs the line between the art toy and the gamer scene.” One of the jurors for the competition, Stacey Mulcahy called the site “A showcase of great illustration and animation style driven by dark humor.”

Eric Washburn (MM ’06) was appointed Interim Director of Choral Activities at the New England Conservatory in Boston in July.

Jan Welborn (MFA ’80) was a participant in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program in October 2008, where he studied Japanese culture and education in the cities of Tokyo and Miyazaki. He currently teaches art at Charleston Day School and in a Charleston County Public School gifted and talented program during the summers. Welborn has taught art studio and art history at Mount Olive College (NC) and at the College of Charleston.

Of 12 semifinalists at the Appalachian Guitar Festival Solo Competition, four ECU guitarists, Chris Adkins (MM ’09), Paulina Puljek (MM ’09), Armin Abdihodzic (MM ’09), and current senior James Wrenn were semifinalists. Abdihodzic won third prize at the 2009 Columbus State University Guitar Symposium in competition with 62 guitarists from six different countries. Adam Kossler (BM ’06) won second prize at the same event. Abdihodzic won first prize at the Mississippi Guitar Festival in Hattiesburg and at the Music Academy of North Carolina in Greensboro. He is pursuing doctoral studies at the University of North Texas.